

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
FOLLOW-UP SCHEDULE FOR DIAGNOSTIC / CONFIRMED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS  
FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX**

Blood Lead Level	Response
<b>Clinical and environmental follow-up is based on the <i>truncated</i> test result.</b> Example: Actual result= 4.79; Actions based on truncated value= 4	
<b>All diagnostic (i.e., confirmation) tests should be performed as soon as possible within specified time periods.</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <u>Diagnostic tests</u> should be venous; however, capillary tests are accepted if a venous cannot be obtained.</li> <li>➤ <u>Follow-up testing</u> can be capillary.</li> <li>➤ CDC protocol for capillary sampling of blood lead should be followed. (See Resources)</li> <li>➤ If diagnostic test result falls into a lower category - follow response for the lower risk category.</li> <li>➤ <b>If diagnostic or follow-up test result falls into a higher category</b> – conduct <u>another</u> diagnostic test to confirm the higher risk category. Follow guidelines for higher risk category, after confirmation.</li> <li>➤ Point of care (POC) lead analyzers (i.e., LeadCare) should <b>NOT</b> be used for diagnostic tests.</li> <li>➤ <b>Diagnostic tests must be sent to an outside reference laboratory.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>&lt;5 µg/dL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report blood lead test result to parents and document notification</li> <li>• Educate family about lead sources and prevention of lead exposure</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Retest at age 2, earlier if risk of exposure increases</b></p>
<b>5-9 µg/dL</b>  (Perform diagnostic test <b>within 3 months</b> )	<p><b>Take same actions as above -AND- if diagnostic test result is 5-9 µg/dL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide clinical management</li> <li>• Conduct nutritional assessment and refer child to the WIC Program</li> <li>• Take environmental history to identify lead sources (DHHS 3651 Form)</li> <li>• <b>Refer to local health department to offer an environmental investigation</b></li> <li>• Test other children under the age of six in same household</li> </ul> <p><b>Follow-up testing: Every 3 months until 2 consecutive tests are &lt;5 µg/dL (based on the <i>truncated</i> test result)</b></p>
<b>10-44 µg/dL</b>  (Perform diagnostic test <b>within 1 month</b> at 10-19 µg/dL; <b>within 1 week</b> at 20-44 µg/dL)	<p><b>Take same actions as above -AND- if diagnostic test result is 10-44 µg/dL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Refer to local health department for <u>required</u> environmental investigation and remediation enforcement if hazards are identified</b></li> <li>• Refer child to CDSA* Early Intervention or CC4C** as appropriate</li> <li>• Refer to Social Services as needed for housing or additional assistance</li> </ul> <p><b>Follow-up testing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10-24 µg/dL: every 1-3 months until 2 consecutive tests are &lt;5 µg/dL</b></li> <li>• <b>25-44 µg/dL: every 2 weeks to 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are &lt;5 µg/dL (based on the <i>truncated</i> test result)</b></li> </ul>
<b>45-69 µg/dL</b>  (Perform diagnostic test <b>within 48 hours</b> at 45-59 µg/dL; <b>24 hours</b> at 60-69 µg/dL)	<p><b>Take same actions as above -AND- if diagnostic test result is 45-69 µg/dL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with Carolinas Poison Center (1-800-222-1222) for advice on chelation and/or hospitalization</li> <li>• Consider an abdominal x-ray check for an ingested object</li> <li>• Alert NC CLPPP by calling 919-707-5950</li> </ul> <p><b>Follow-up testing: 45-69 µg/dL: every 2 weeks to 1 month until 2 consecutive tests are &lt;5 µg/dL (based on the <i>truncated</i> test result)</b></p>
<b>≥70 µg/dL</b>  (Perform emergency diagnostic test <b>immediately</b> )	<p><b>Take same actions as above -AND- if diagnostic test result is ≥70 µg/dL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitalize child and begin medical treatment <u>immediately</u></li> </ul> <p><b>Follow-up testing: Same as 45-69 µg/dL category</b></p>

\*Children's Developmental Service Agency

\*\*Care Coordination for Children

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Resources:

- [DHHS 3651 Form](#)
- [Agencies for Referrals by County](#)
- [Educational Materials for Families](#)
- [CDC Protocol for Capillary Sampling of Blood Lead](#)
- [CDC Protocol for Later Follow-up Testing after Blood Lead Level \(BLL\) Declining](#)

